

Evergreen Visioning Project
Task Force Meeting
DRAFT Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, May 5, 2005 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Location: LeyVa Middle School, 1865 Monrovia Drive San José

Attendees: See Sign-in Sheet

The agenda included:

- Approve Meeting Summaries of April 20 and 26, 2005 Task Force Meetings
- Discussion of upcoming City Council consideration of the Evergreen Visioning Project
- Public Comment

Discussion/Key Issues/Questions:

The meeting summaries of the April 20 and 26, 2005 Task Force meetings were accepted as submitted.

The facilitator Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies introduced herself to the group and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Councilmember Cortese briefly reviewed activities since the April 19, 2005 San José City Council meeting. He reviewed the meetings up to and including the deferral of the May 3 City Council item regarding the proposed new Task Force concept. The Councilmember suggested that the Task Force spend the meeting brainstorming positions related to the issues addressed in the April 29, 2005 Memo from Mayor Gonzales, Councilmember Yeagar and Councilmember Campos. Further Councilmember Cortese suggested that a meeting be held over the weekend to further refine a response from the Task Force to the Mayor and that a sub-group of the Task Force be prepared to attend a meeting with the Mayor on Monday May 9th at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. The Councilmember reminded the Task Force that the Evergreen Visioning Project would be on the evening City Council meeting on Tuesday May 17th at City Hall.

A Task Force member who had been part of the smaller meeting held with the Mayor gave a few remarks about the process and the expectations.

The Task Force had the following discussion and brainstorming session:

- A member of the Task Force opened the discussion by stating it was important to have all 31 existing Task Force members stay as a part of the process not just 14 members along with other City Council District representatives as suggested in the Mayor's memo.
- Another Task Force member said it was highly desirable for the Task Force members to *all* stay on and that the EVP Task Force members must make up the majority of the new Task Force.
- A Task Force member agreed that the EVP Task Force should represent a majority but wondered whether the Task Force members were being unrealistic to expect all 30 seats.
- A Task Force member suggested that if one looked at the seats in the Mayor's memo and counted the Councilmember and the representative from the School District then in fact the EVP Task Force members already would constitute the majority (14 plus 2 out of 30).
- A Task Force member queried whether all the existing members would like to attend the other Task Force and he further supposed that those who do not attend the existing Task Force meetings might also be willing to forgo a spot on the new Task Force. He suggested an off-line poll. (A show of hand was taken a couple of members agreed they did not necessarily need a seat on the new Task Force.)
- A Task Force member wondered if the group knew where the real opportunities to negotiate were and where they were not. He queried the Councilmember and the Task Force members who had met with the Mayor to clarify what could be "pushing the envelope and what wouldn't be."
- It was suggested by a Task Force member that perhaps the Mayor's memo list of participants could be modified to allow more local resident participation from EVP Task Force by substituting the VTA, labor, citywide business representative, parks representative and other similar positions. She mentioned that those other representatives could potentially participate as non-voting members.
- Several members of the Task Force went on to discuss the fact that there would be two Task Forces in place as a result of the Mayor's proposal. It was further noted that the Mayor was expecting strict attendance at the new Task Force study sessions. There was additional discussion about the roles of the two task Forces. Councilmember Cortese answered questions regarding what would happen if the EVP Task Force didn't continue.

- Members expressed a desire to clarify with the Mayor the status of the EVP Task Force members on the new Task Force. They expressed a desire to be equals yet wondered if it would be the case.
- A Task Force member wondered about the role and how the District 5 and District 7 representatives would be chosen.
- The point was made that the EVP Task Force could stay advisory to Councilmember Cortese while the new Task Force would be advisory to the full City Council.
- The Task Force members discussion how they could get new members up to speed and reiterated that many of the issues highlighted in the Mayor's memo were resolved or close to being resolved and wondered how to communicate that to the Mayor. Another member felt it was healthy to have some of the issues re-looked at such as conversion because the City-wide Task force should weigh in on the City-wide issues.
- A Task Force member wondered whether the City Council was truly "not understanding" what had gone on in the EVP process so far or was "not liking what had gone on." There was a general answer that it was likely a bit of both.
- Councilmember Cortese handed out a proposed outline for an Evergreen Master Plan Draft document. He further made the case that the Task Force should clearly state their baseline/framework/positions on various issues so that if new proposals came up the new Task Force would know where the EVP Task Force stood on the issues.
- A Task Force member stated he felt there was a lot of risk in addressing issues raised in the Mayor's memo. He noted that there would be a need to re-justify the current EVP Task Force positions. He also stated the new Task Force would be dealing with all the same issues so this Task Force needed to stay together and unified.
- Several Task Force members expressed concern regarding losing the amenities to another part of the City. It was a particular concern to loose amenities to areas where there was "no price to pay" with regard to the new development. It was reiterated that the way to control this would be to have a majority control of the new Task Force.
- A question was raised by a Task Force member whether the new Task Force concept would be precedent setting for other development in the City. Councilmember Cortese answered that he thought it was.
- A Task Force member suggested really using the memo as way to pinpoint what the Mayor is asking the Task Force members to respond to.

- More discussion followed from several Task Force members expressing the desire to keep all 31 members at the table and having those participating in the new Task Force be residents of the communities impacted by the proposed developments.
- It was noted that Planning Staff participation and staff support for the new Task Force would be likely. A Task Force member questioned whether having two Task Forces might mean that each could meet less often. The same Task Force member suggested that perhaps sharing some of the amenities outside the District where appropriate could be done.
- A statement was made that the proposed improvements on Route 101 would have a region-wide benefit not only for the users but also as a way to cut down on traffic that currently cuts through District 5.
- There were several members who discussed the need to remain as 31 members, a concern about money flowing outside of the immediate area or flowing to different projects, and a desire to drop the non-area people as voting members of the new Task Force. There were statements and discussion about what would happen if the EVP Task Force members chose to “shut down the process.”
- A Task Force member complemented Councilmember Cortese for his vision in inventing this process. He noted people like to jump in to successful things and take credit for them and noted that could be what was occurring with the City Council. The Task Force member expressed concern on the duplication of two Task Forces.
- Another Task Force member expressed support and appreciation for Councilmember Cortese and the process. The Task Force member noted that the process has been innovated and suggested the group stick together as “one for all or nothing.” He further noted that if the Task Force agreed to reduce it would loose.
- Another Task Force member passed out copies of the emails he has been sending out and he recapped the contacts he has made to City Councilmembers and neighbors. He also complemented Councilmember Cortese on the process.
- There was a comment made from Task Force member regarding the proposed Arcadia development being too dense. There was a suggestion that a new Task Force could be good if Councilmember Cortese could still get credit for it and the EVP Task Force could still retain control.
- A round of applause was offered for Alan C, Jim Z, Mike A and Councilmember Cortese for “keeping the group in the game.” Appreciation to the group was expressed by all.

- It was agreed that an open meeting would be held on Saturday at 2:30 pm. at a location TBD . The purpose of the meeting is to continue to work on the message points and responses to the Mayor's memo. It was agreed that once a location was chose it would be emailed to the group list from the Councilmembers staff.
- A Task Force member indicated his desire to stay involved because he wants to see "more than just houses go in."
- A Task Force member noted the "fuller representation" comment on page 4 of the Mayor's memo and suggested that the representation issue could be solved by adding more people to the existing Task Force.
- There was more support expressed for having city-wide issues such as conversion dealt with in a City-wide forum so they could actually gain support and help the whole plan come together.
- There was a suggestion that time be spent on the Guiding Principles and that if the EVP Task Force could strategize and influence how the new Task Force would be governed then there was hope for the process as the Task Force's work had been excellent to date. It was further noted it wouldn't be that difficult to convince a few more people of the good work. There was discussion regarding the vague nature of the Mayor's memo and Councilmember Cortese volunteered to bring earlier less vague versions of the memo to the Saturday meeting for discussion.
- Councilmember Cortese issued a brief statement of his top concerns. He expressed concern regarding how the Task Force Members and the District 8 residents could be satisfied along the way. He expressed concern regarding school issues and how little "wiggle room" there was for additional amenities. He expressed clear understanding that the City Council could and should weigh in on issues of concern to the City budget such as operational costs to new parks, affordable housing, industrial conversion and the like. He expressed concern about the potential redundancy of two task forces. He reiterated his desire for the Task Force to establish positions that could then be articulated and protected.

Public Comment:

- 1) A District 7 resident stated that the SNI's functioned as one regardless of District lines. Personally he supported the new Task Force but also felt that the existing Task Force should retain a majority control. He expressed the belief that the District 7 representative on the Task Force should be related to SNI or a close neighbor to the proposed projects. He said Councilmember Cortese has done a good job although the speaker had taken him to task on occasion. The speaker also expressed his frustration at the Salvation Army deal. He expressed concurrence that the money

generated through the development should stay in the immediate area and not be spread around.

- A community member expressed his hope that things would be resolved and he briefed the attendees on his actions and emails to date. These included emails, phone calls and conversations with City Councilmembers. He expressed support for the group.
- The next community member stated her belief that Jim, Mike, Alan, and Homing have really contributed the most. She challenged the Task Force to really think through what was first on their list.
- A community member asked whether the Saturday meeting would be open and how it would be noticed. She also asked about the property owners' current position and wondered "where they stand." She stated she was concerned regarding lack of representation of the Mt. Pleasant School District on the current Task Force and expressed support for the new Task Force because the School District would be represented. She challenged the Task Force assumption that it would be difficult to join the process mid-way. She stated she had been at more meetings and knew more than some of the Task Force members.

Task Force Comment:

- A Task Force member suggested that the Mayor's office should be coordinated with regarding number of attendees for Monday's meeting. It was determined that the sub-group of ten Task Force members (Jim Z, Daniel, Gordon, Alan, Vince, Homing, Jose, Jenny, Ike, and Lillian, as well as Councilmember Cortese) should be prepared to attend a meeting with the Mayor on Monday May 9th at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. Councilmember Cortese volunteered to coordinate with the Mayor's office regarding who would attend. The actual sub-group would be confirmed again at the Saturday meeting.
- It was clarified that the Saturday meeting would be open to all, the Mayor's meeting would be a smaller group and that it was likely the smaller group would meet between Saturday and Monday to work on their presentation. It was anticipated that meeting would not be public.

The meeting was first adjourned at 9:00 p.m. briefly reconvened and then re-adjourned at 9:18.

Action items:

- It was suggested that an off-line poll be taken regarding Task Force members desires to sit on both Task Forces.

- It was agreed that an open meeting would be held on Saturday at 2:30 pm. at a location TBD . The purpose of the meeting is to continue to work on the message points and responses to the Mayor's memo. It was agreed that once a location was chose it would be emailed to the group list from the Councilmembers staff. There was also a suggestion to look at the Guiding Principals at the meeting.
- Councilmember Cortese volunteered to bring earlier less vague versions of the Mayor's memo to the Saturday meeting for discussion.
- Councilmember Cortese handed out a proposed outline for an Evergreen Master Plan Draft document. It was suggested that the next steps for the document be part of the discussion at the meeting on Saturday.
- It was determined that the sub-group of ten Task Force members (Jim Z, Daniel, Gordon, Alan, Vince, Homing, Jose, Jenny, Ike, and Lillian, as well as Councilmember Cortese) should be prepared to attend a meeting with the Mayor on Monday May 9th at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall. Councilmember Cortese volunteered to coordinate with the Mayor's office regarding who would attend. The actual sub-group would be confirmed again at the Saturday meeting.

Prepared By: Eileen Goodwin

Distribution: Attendees